OFAH ZONE J SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING WAS HELD AT DUNNVILLE AND DISTRICT HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

A huge OFAH Thank You to the dedicated volunteers at the Dunnville club for hosting OFAH Zone J members. Everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed their day. Our first guest speaker was Alfie Stanevicius. Alfie has a passion for wood ducks and their habitat. His 200 wood duck boxes have produced about 4,000 eggs. We were entertained and educated—Thank you Alfie!

The next presenter was none other than our own Felix Barbetti. Felix discussed the history of the local Dunnville fisheries—lake Erie and Grand River. The Dunnville Hunters and Anglers Club has run their fish hatchery for over 30 years in partnerships with Port Colborne Conservation Club, Fort Erie Conservation Club, Ministry of Natural Resources Lake Erie Management Unit and Grand River Conservation Authority. Their partnership has resulted in data collection thru their trap/tag/transfer projects. Index netting assistance, monthly perch dinners, over 30 years of kids fishing derbies, and so much more are regular activities for the Dunnville members. The volunteers have spent countless hours over the years to improve the lower Grand, Welland River and Lake Erie fishery.

The OFAH Zone J Executive moved this meeting along quickly and we wrapped up about 1:30pm. Members were then offered the opportunity to take a pontoon boat tour of the lower Grand, below the Dunnville dam. About 12 members bundled up and braved the cold wind for a fantastic guided historical tour of the river. This tour was the highlight of the day! Many thanks to Captain Ted and to Felix Barbetti for making this tour happen.
OFAH ZONE J

OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE 2013-2014 CONTACT INFO

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Past Chair, Tony Jackson
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519-273-4193

Past Chair, Felix Barbetti
Fonthill area
fbarbetti@congeco.ca
905-892-4381

Please be advised that Jim Greenwood resigned his position as OFAH Zone J Chair effective December 31, 2013. As per OFAH Zone J By Laws, the current OFAH Zone J Executive move up a position to fill the vacancy. Please join me in Thanking Jim for his contributions to OFAH Zone J as we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

www.shopofah.org

To have something added to the OFAH Zone J website, please send an email request to websitezonej@gmail.com

PLEASE REMEMBER
To receive this Newsletter in PRINT, please send an email request to newsletterzonej@gmail.com or contact OFAH Zone J Secretary/Treasurer by mail or phone. To receive electronically, send your email address.
CALL TO ALL MEMBERS

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J is seeking nominations for the Annual OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award.
Deadline for Nominations is December 31, 2013

This award is to recognize an individual’s outstanding effort towards Stewardship, Conservation, and/or the promotion of angling or hunting in Southwestern Ontario as selected by the OFAH Zone J membership.

Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member, for this award.
Nominees for the 2013 award may be submitted to the Zone J Secretary/Treasurer no later than December 31, 2013.

Please include a description of the work the nominee has done as well as photos, news articles, etc.
The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 2014 Quarterly meeting in Brantford with the winner being announced at the Zone J Annual meeting in April 2014.

We know there are many deserving volunteers who quietly devote their time, energy and money to conservation, hunting and angling within our Zone. Please help us recognize them by submitting a story about their dedication and passion.

www.ontariofamilyfishing.com
Please visit the website for details on how to list your event or find one in your area!
Introduce your friends to fishing!

2014
February 15—17
July 5—13

ONTARIO FAMILY FISHING EVENTS
**Mark Your 2014 Calendars**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>9am—3pm OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting, Brant Rod &amp; Gun Club, Brantford area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5—6</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J AGM and Election, Oxford Sportmens Club, Tillsonburg area</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13—15</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J 26th Annual Youth Campout, Brant Rod &amp; Gun Club, Brantford area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting, Bluewater Anglers, Sarnia area</td>
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We are now seeking locations for our 2015 meetings. If you are interested in hosting a meeting and would like more information, please email OFAH Zone J Secretary.

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**Sunday January 12, 2014**

*Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J*

*Membership meeting hosted by the*

**Brant Rod & Gun Club**

54 Henderson Road, Brant - off Bishopsgate Road  
north of Colborne Street West, near Burford  
Doors open at 8:30am  
Meeting starts at 9am sharp

*Presentation by award winning taxidermist Rick Davis at 11 am*

*Hot lunch available at noon*

**1pm Presentation by OFAH Fish & Wildlife staff on the benefits of licensed hunting in publicly accessible areas**

- OFAH will present our policies and positions, the basic science and information behind them, and the overall benefits of proper wildlife management.
- Provide you with clear and cohesive arguments needed to address the contentious issues.
- Discuss the differences between hunting and culling, misconceptions about the safety of hunting, ecological and socioeconomic benefits of multi-use land management that includes licensed hunters

For more information call OFAH Zone J Chair Brian Moore  
Or Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Moore
The club’s history dates back to 1937, when a group of sportsmen began meeting in Eagle Place, with activities including: shooting sports, fishing, tree-planting and story telling.

In the 1940’s the meetings were moved to Holmedale and the idea of an annual Sportsman Show was launched. These annual shows took place first at the Armouries, then the Civic Center and now they are presently being held at our clubhouse.

Our club’s ‘home’, situated on 54 acres, was purchased in the mid-1950’s, with the very first club-house being located in a renovated barn. It was then that the members became actively involved in fighting pollution in the Grand River Watershed.

Mr Clare Savage was club president in 1958, and by then the club was in full swing planting trees on the property. The trout pond located on Landon Creek had already been dug.

The club was also very interested in safe gun handling and this time honoured interest still holds true today. With activities such as steak fries, corn roasts, and turkey suppers, a Ladies Auxiliary was formed by wives of the members. With the Ladies Auxiliary sponsoring the many social events, financial benefits to the club came by way of;

- a kitchen, bathrooms, and many other smaller projects. In the summer of 1962 the mortgage to the club was paid off and burned in a ceremonial gathering with a steak fry to commemorate it by. The Ladies Auxiliary had donated $600 towards the payment of the mortgage discharge.

Besides stream improvement and tree planting, the club had been a supplier of full grown pheasants for the Township. Mr. Joe Waller & Frank Tomlin had accumulated a great variety of geese, ducks and pheasants. Their efforts, with the help of others, while at times was discouraging, it had ultimately been rewarding.

The club’s trap and skeet had been an active project ever since the park was purchased. Mr. William Bonney, was one of the instigators, in having flood lights installed on the skeet range, making it to the club’s understanding, the second such range in Ontario. A fire destroyed the club-house on March 7, 1970 and a new facility was built. September 12, 2000 heralds the 25th anniversary of the grand opening of the new club house. The lower club room contains a pool-table, dart boards a dance floor and a bar. The upper floor contains a hall that can seat 200 people for: meetings, seminars, wedding receptions, dinners and other such events. The upper inside and outside balconies provides a fine view of the trout pond and campgrounds.

In 1950 a Committee “Clean up the Grand River” was formed. 1960 was the official opening of the Modern Day Sewage Disposal plant which was without a doubt instigated by this committee.

The club was also interested in safe gun handling and continues on today with several volunteers. The trap range is open two days a week and also used by the Brant County Youth Shooting Sports Association mentored by the BRGC and the Boss Gobblers chapter of NWTF of Brant/Oxford. Gun courses are still being offered today and registration is always to capacity.

A fire destroyed the club-house on March 7, 1970 and a new facility was built. This was all done with volunteer help. On September 12th, 1975 the club held a grand opening of the new beautiful club house you see today. We have continued to work with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Earth Week Events Committee and the MNR which works with our hatchery.

November 2012 we celebrated 75 years in conservation with a dinner, a picture of today’s members, planted a time capsule and held an open house. We showed the fish hatchery, campgrounds trap range and beautiful clubhouse.

**Paul Helm Fish Hatchery**

The first fish hatchery was started by Paul Helm, Clayton Wright and Allen Chambers.

The hatchery was started in a small building behind the rental house going down the hill towards the campsites. Brown trout were hatched and released in Landon and Whiteman Creeks.

It was decided we needed a real up-to-date hatchery with more room, Paul Helm made things happen. In 1984 began the building of a new hatchery with volunteer help.

At this time Paul was Vice President. Paul became ill and in 1984 passed away.

The official opening of the PAUL HELM MEMORIAL HATCHERY was held on May 9, 1986. At this time Paul was Vice President. Paul became ill and in 1984 passed away.

1960 was the official opening of the Modern Day Sewage Disposal plant which was without a doubt instigated by this committee.

Over the years thousands of young fingerlings have been released into the Whitemans Creek when we getting our eggs from the creek by electro-shocking. After 1999 when our eggs came from MNR locations they were released into the Conestoga River and upper Grand River tailwater fisheries area. Today a dedicated member and volunteer Jim Brown diligently takes care of the hatchery along with his brother Gord. Last year the fish were released at the Shand Dam in the Grand River near Fergus.

We received another 20,000 eggs on January 9, 2013 to be raised and released later this year.

**OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting**

**Location:** 54 Henderson Road, (Brant)
Off Bishopsgate Road north of Colbourne St W, near Burford

**OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting will be held here Sunday January 12th**

**Doors open at 8:30am with meeting start at 9am.**

**Guest Speaker: Richard Davis, award winning taxidermist from Tillsonburg**

**Hot lunch available at noon.**

**Special presentation by OFAH head office staff on the benefits of licensed hunting in publicly accessible areas at 1pm.**
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Urban Recreational Fisheries Plan meeting report

On Nov 5th I attended the MNR Urban Recreational Fisheries Plan in Mississauga. I met Chris Robinson from OFAH Peterborough. Interesting person, maybe we can invite him to present the “Atlantic Salmon restoration plan” at one of our meetings sometime soon.

The Meeting was presented by a William Wegman from the Aurora MNR office and John Clayton a Biologist with the MNR. The plan encompasses the area within the borders of the lift bridge at the Burlington Skyway to the east border of Durham Region. Expectation is that the population of the GTA will grow to 8.9 million by 2026 -13 years from now.

With the improvement of the water quality over the years, fish have come back to the areas. There is a need is to improve habitat for fish.

There was a Councilor from Oakville attending and spoke to the issue. Right in town at Port Credit, the park right beside the meeting hall, there is a bylaw that you are not allowed in the park after 9 pm in evening till 6 am in the morning. There is nowhere to park during these hours to be able to fish. And there is a fence along the waterfront that says, “No Trespassing.” Most of the waterfront has no access anywhere. Most of the municipalities have these same bylaws. There is a boat launch, but most families just come to fish don’t have boats.

The Plan is to try to open up access thru the municipalities all along the corridor. To make pod areas - basically a concrete area about 10’ X 10’ with a guardrail, and fishing only signs. Right at the water’s edge to allow for access to be able fish. One of the problems they face is a lot of the areas have boardwalks that are used by walkers, runners and cyclist. The possible chances of catching something other than fish are very good in the back cast.

Along with this there is a need for more boat and canoe launches and piers and docks areas posted with fishing only signs to further open up access.

There were the Anti-Fishing people attending. They tried to take over the meeting, with their agenda. First time I had actually heard someone speak to this. Their main issue was catch and release. That fish released were dying from being caught and the statistics were alter and wrong showing the effects on fish. Moderator jumped in and quelled the issue.

I filled out and brought home a copy of the Plan Questionnaire. I brought home pamphlets from the various organizations that are involved. It was nice to see head office there. The invasive species display and to chat with them after.

In all this seems to be a Fantastic plan. There are some liabilities now and there will be some liabilities. It will be a work in progress that will evolve into something with more advantages and access for all.

Yours In Conservation,
Randy MacPherson
OFAH Zone J Alternate Director

40th Annual OFAH Conservation Lottery

Tickets still only $2.00 each!!
If your Club would like to raise a few dollars for Conservation work, have them contact Cathy MacKay at cathy_mackay@ofah.org to order tickets.
For every book of tickets your Club sells, your Club receives $6 back to use for Conservation
Early Bird draws will be held February 21 and April 11
Main draw May 30th
From our homes to yours,

wishing you and yours a safe, happy Holiday Season
and a prosperous, healthy 2014

OFAH Zone J Executive